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DEF 12-5 LEB

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

XR DEF 12-5 ISR

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Action NEA
Info SS G SP L H EUR P USIA NSC INR CIA NSA DOD AID MC RMR

RR RUEHCR
DE RUQMBE 8618 13/1811Z
R 1809462 ZEA
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO RUDPNR/SECSTATE WASHDC 1275
INFO ZEN/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 439
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY PARIS 98
RUQMVL/AMEMBASSY TELAVIV 231
BT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MAY 18

FRENCH ARMS FOR LEBANON AND ISRAEL.

BEIRUT SISTER PAPERS AL-HAYAT AND DAILY STAR MAY 18 HEADLINED REPORT QUOTED FROM PARIS WEEKLY LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR OF MAY 13 TO EFFECT THAT FRANCE TO DELIVER MIRAGE IV TO LEBANON "IN DISTANT FUTURE". REPORT ADDED FRANCE HAD PROMISED ISRAEL GROUND-TO-AIR MISSILES YEAR AGO (NOT GROUND-TO-GROUND AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY BY BEIRUT PRESS). PARIS ARTICLE REPORTEDLY SPECULATED US MIGHT HAVE DREDGED UP THIS "OLD STORY"

PAGE TWO RUQMBE 8618
TO DISTURB FRENCH-LEBANESE RELATIONS OR ELSE IT COOKED UP BY OTHERS AS ANTI-AMERICAN PLAY.

COMMENT: NEWSPAPER FAMILY WHICH ORIGINATED FRENCH ISRAEL MISSILE STORY APPARENTLY FEELS IT HAS HIT UPON CIRCULATION BOOSTER. MIDDLETON
BT

(2)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY S. Duncan Fraser DATE 2/1/07
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